



Jeff Morf and Craig Jackson answer residents' questions at the May 2010 neighborhood meeting on Tasa Drive.

I-84, Ten Mile Interchange Neighborhood Meeting Summary

May 2010

The Idaho Transportation Department hosted a Ten Mile Interchange neighborhood meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 18, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to update residents about the summer construction schedule and associated traffic impacts. **This document summarizes the meeting presentation and questions asked by attendees.**

Notification

ITD notified a wide range of stakeholders about the meeting. The notification materials served as a construction update for the business and residential communities in western Meridian. The target audience for the meeting, however, was the residential neighborhood immediately next to the interchange.

- A **postcard** was mailed to every address within a 1.5-mile radius around the interchange. The postcard was intended to thank community members for their patience and give a general update about construction and how to stay informed. The postcard included an invitation to the neighborhood meeting.

In addition to the broader mailing, ITD mailed the postcard to local businesses and agencies that were on the project database.

- Invitations were **hand-delivered to residents** on Tasa Drive, Davis Lane and Overland Road the week before the meeting. ITD also made follow-up phone calls to these residents.
- Notification was placed on the **ITD and City of Meridian Web, Twitter and Facebook** sites. The Ada County Highway District also posted notification on the **ACHD website**.
- An **electronic version of the invitation** was e-mailed to an opt-in list of businesses and residents who had requested project updates at the beginning of construction.

Meeting format and materials

ITD held the neighborhood meeting under the new Tasa Drive bridge. The convenient, on-site location allowed many residents to walk to the meeting.

Attendees were greeted at the entrance of the bridge and asked to sign in. Each person received a schedule handout and comment sheet. A map of the completed interchange was posted under the bridge.

Presentation

June Sparks from the ITD Office of Communications opened the meeting and introduced the ITD staff and contractors. ITD Resident Engineer Jeff Morf then gave a presentation about the construction status.

Highlights from the presentation included:

Introduction

- The Ten Mile Interchange is part of the GARVEE Transportation Program. It is one of the biggest projects on this corridor.

Schedule

- The Ten Mile Bridge is part of the “critical path” for the project. For the project to be on schedule, crews will need to work six days a week and some long shifts.
- Drainage work has started on Tasa Drive.
- A stormwater pond will be constructed near the old Tasa Place cul-de-sac.
- Ten Mile Road and the new on- and off-ramps are expected to open in early summer 2011.

ACHD work

- The Ten Mile Interchange project boundary stops 100 yards south of Franklin Road. ACHD is widening the road north of that boundary.
- ACHD will start another widening project on the south side of the Ten Mile Interchange (between I-84 and the new Overland Road) in Fall/Winter 2010.

Traffic impacts and other disruptions

- Last year involved long days of heavy hauling. Thank you for being patient during that period. This year will not require such long hours of hauling.
- Some night work will be needed during paving and other activities this year.
- Work on the ramps will cause some vibrations.
- We work hard to reduce off-site tracking of mud and dirt into Tasa Drive.
- High mast lights will not be activated for several more months. Lights on the new part of Tasa Drive will be activated before that.

Questions and answers

After the presentation, attendees were encouraged to ask questions of Jeff Morf, Craig Jackson (acting staff engineer) and Idaho Sand & Gravel (project contractor).

Brian Huey from the Ada County Highway Department answered questions about ACHD construction near the interchange.

Questions and answers are paraphrased here. In some cases, more information has been added to clarify the answers. These cases are noted with the word “Update” and italic font.

1. I am concerned about the school bus stop at the top of Ten Mile Road. Many times, trucks are speeding and the bus has to slam on its brakes.

We are very concerned about safety on this project. We will notify the drivers of this issue.

Update: This concern was a discussion topic in the May 19 contractor meeting. Idaho Sand & Gravel will remind all of its drivers before the next round of hauling begins in this area.

2. Will you be running any more utilities on Tasa Drive or Ten Mile Road?

Not to our knowledge. The current utility work (a stormwater system) is being completed at the City of Meridian’s request.

Update: A sleeve for a future water line, and a small segment of sewer line, were installed at the same time as the storm sewer. Both will be used for future development. The city has no other plans for utilities in this area.

3. It appears that a new road is going in on the inside of the Franklin and Ten Mile intersection. What is that?

ITD and ACHD are not aware of a new road. This may have been a route for construction vehicles when hauling fill materials for the road.

Update: ACHD installed temporary asphalt on the southeast corner of this intersection. Motorists are driving on this section while the bridge over Ten Mile Creek is under construction. The temporary asphalt will be removed when the bridge is completed.

4. How far north will ACHD widen Ten Mile Road?

ACHD will widen Ten Mile Road between Franklin Road and Cherry Lane.

5. What is ACHD going to do on the Davis side of Ten Mile Road?

ACHD will widen Ten Mile Road between the south side of the Tasa Bridge and the newly realigned Overland Road. ACHD expects to start construction in Fall/Winter 2010. The schedule will depend on right-of-way purchases.

6. When can we drive under the new Tasa Drive bridge structure?

The contractor plans to open the bridge this summer.

7. What pipe is going under Tasa Drive right now?

The pipe is part of a stormwater system that will be used for future development.

8. Is there any plan yet for development on the other side of Tasa Drive (east of Ten Mile Road)?

ITD does not play a role in development plans. For details, please contact Pete Friedman at the City of Meridian (884-5533 or pfriedman@meridiancity.org).

Update: The city has not received any plans for development along the new (east) extension of Tasa Drive.

9. Will the permanent lighting be pointed down so it does not shine in residential windows? Construction lighting is like a spotlight.

We have investigated complaints about the construction lighting and asked that it be pointed down as much as possible. It is a traffic hazard to point lighting toward traffic. The permanent lighting will not be as bright as the construction lighting. A good example of this type of lighting is at the Wye Interchange.

10. What are you going to do about the weeds along Tasa Drive?

The weeds will be sprayed soon. The rainy weather has so far prevented us from spraying weeds. See Question 11 for more details.

11. Who will maintain this area after construction?

The area will be seeded at the end of the project and maintained by ITD.

Update: The area inside the ITD right-of-way fence will be seeded with a mix of fescue grasses and irrigated with a sprinkler system. The grasses will be about 12 inches high and will remain green during the growing season.

The area outside the ITD right-of-way fence (a 50- to 100-foot-deep strip along Tasa Drive) will be seeded with a standard dryland mix. The dryland mix is a "prairie grass" that does not require mowing. ITD will spray the area every year for noxious weeds as long as it owns the property.

12. What is the exact cost of the Tasa Bridge?

This is difficult to answer, because the bridges are not priced separately in the bid.

Update: An analysis of the bid items that make up the bridge indicates that the Tasa Bridge cost \$1.2 million to construct.

13. Why didn't ITD buy out the remaining houses on Tasa Drive?

State law prohibits ITD from purchasing properties that do not meet the criteria for project need. "Project need" can include property where ITD needs to build highway lanes, shoulders, slopes, ditches, drainage ponds, access roads, bridges or other features.

In rare cases, environmental impacts may rise to the level where buyouts or other mitigation becomes a project need. After an 18-month-long environmental assessment, the Ten Mile Interchange project was determined to have no significant environmental impact -- meaning there was no identifiable reason for residents south of Tasa Drive to be forced out of their homes.

14. Will the east side of Tasa Drive be used as a gravel pit in the future?

We are not aware of plans to use this area as a gravel pit in the future.

Update: The area will be graded and stabilized after construction is complete. The conditions placed on the activity by the City of Meridian require the gravel operations to cease upon completion of the interchange project. The City expects future development to be consistent with the Ten Mile Specific Area Plan. The plan is available at www.meridiancity.org under "Planning Department."

15. Will ITD be running natural gas lines for future development?

The city has no plans to run natural gas lines in this area. Inquiries about natural gas lines should be directed to the gas company.

Update: Greg Wegner at Intermountain Gas will answer questions from individual homeowners. Greg's direct line is (208) 377-6802.

16. There is a sign on Overland Road that says "This road to be continued." Will the road be continued to Black Cat Road?

ACHD will look into this situation.

Update: The City of Nampa has applied for federal dollars to extend Overland Road between the Nampa Airport and Ten Mile Road. If Nampa is successful, ACHD will match a portion of the federal dollars and help with constructing the portion between McDermott Road and Ten Mile Road. The project is not in ACHD's five-year work plan, and it would require a great deal of public involvement.

17. When will I-84 be widened to three lanes between Black Cat and Ten Mile roads?

The schedule has not been finalized. We are working with the contractor on this issue.

Update: ITD will e-mail the project database before opening the third lane. If you are not on the database, send your e-mail to comments@itd.idaho.gov and include "Ten Mile Interchange" in the subject line.

18. When will the flaggers be working on Ten Mile Road? How do I get advance notice of this type of work in the future?

The flaggers will be working the rest of this week. We call residents prior to traffic interruptions like flagging. Please be sure to leave your information with us if you are not on the list.

ITD also sends e-mails prior to lane closures on I-84, noisy activities or other disruptions. To join the e-mail list, send your contact information to comments@itd.idaho.gov and include "Ten Mile Interchange" in the subject line. Updates are also posted on ITD's Facebook page (look up "Idaho Transportation Department" at www.facebook.com).

19. What is the purpose of the free-running right at the stop sign on northbound Ten Mile Road? The right lane is a free-running right. The sign is confusing.

ACHD will look into this situation.

Update: Because southbound Ten Mile traffic is very light during construction, ACHD added a "Right Turn Permitted Without Stopping" sign on Ten Mile Road for northbound turning traffic. It allows northbound drivers the flexibility to turn right onto Overland Road without stopping, due to the small amount of traffic traveling southbound on Ten Mile Road and turning left onto Overland Road. Compliance with the stop sign for northbound right-turning traffic would be minimal at best with such a low amount of opposing traffic. There is also a sign stating "Oncoming Right Turns Do Not Stop."

The law requires drivers to turn into the nearest lane. ACHD can ask police to enforce this area if it becomes a problem for drivers on southbound Ten Mile.

The signage in this area is temporary. ACHD will install a permanent signal at this intersection before the Ten Mile Interchange is open to through traffic.

Project representatives were available for one-on-one conversations after the meeting. Attendees were encouraged to stay and ask questions, or submit written questions on comment sheets. ITD received one written comment. It has been included in the summary.